



A COMPARISON OF THE NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM AND THE CALIFORNIA'S BRAND INSPECTION PROGRAM



Animal Identification		Brand Identification	
Goal of the Program			
The goal of the proposed national animal identification program is to protect animal agriculture from devastating animal diseases.		The purpose of brand inspection programs is to help protect cattle owners from losses of animals due to theft, straying, or misappropriation.	
How is this done?			
Identifying all premises and animals that have direct contact with a foreign animal disease or a domestic disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify premises involved in livestock production.Provide unique identification to animals involved in livestock commerce.Track animal movement between premises involved in livestock commerce.		Monitoring change of ownership of cattle. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Require registration of cattle, horse, burro, and sheep permanent brands.Inspect brands prior to change of ownership, movement out of state, or slaughter of animals to verify lawful possession of the animals.Inspect cattle on ranches, feedlots, salesyards, and slaughter plants.	
Where?			
 <p>All states</p>		Only 17 states have brand inspection laws. These states are located west of the Mississippi. States with brand inspection programs are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.	
Which animals are included?			
Currently the following species are included in the plan: bison, beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, camelids, horses, cervids, poultry and aquaculture. Initial implementation will be on beef and dairy cattle with sheep and goats following.		In California, permanent brands for cattle, horses, burros, and sheep must be registered. Cattle movement is monitored for ownership.	
How are the programs funded?			
The federal government has allocated limited funding for initial implementation of projects and development of a premises identification system. It is expected that additional funding will be forthcoming for development of an animal identification tracking system. Eventually, both private and public funding will be necessary to make the animal identification program fully operational. Federal and State governments, as well as industry, will share the cost of maintenance, probably with each of these entities covering certain aspects of the system.		Brand inspection is financed through brand registration and inspection fees paid by cattle owners.	
Laws			
Initial implementation of the national animal identification program will be voluntary, but it is expected that as the program is developed, the United States Department of Agriculture will reassess the need for making some or all aspects of the program mandatory. Currently, only certain animal movements are tracked, i.e., some interstate animal movements, and movements under disease quarantines.		The California Food and Agricultural Code requires a brand inspection prior to change of ownership, movement out of state, or slaughter of cattle.	
Who is responsible?			
Federal: United States Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services State: California Dept. of Food and Agriculture, Animal Health Branch, and Bureau of Livestock Identification		California Department of Food and Agriculture, Bureau of Livestock Identification	